

**ARKANSAS PROFESSIONAL BAIL BOND COMPANY
AND PROFESSIONAL BAIL BONDSMAN LICENSING BOARD
OCTOBER 12, 2007**

Chairman Tommy Sturgeon called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m. Roll call was taken. The following members were present: Tommy Sturgeon, Wayland Parker, Ronnie Baldwin, and Phyllis Carruth. Eugene Reynolds and Curt Clark were absent. Also present was Executive Director, Tommy Reed; Assistant Attorney General Hester Criswell, Assistant Attorney Bishop Woosley; board staff, and members of the audience.

Following a review of the Board Minutes for September 14, 2007, Mr. Parker moved to approve the minutes as presented; second by Mr. Baldwin. The Chair called for discussion; hearing none, the matter was put to a voice vote. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Transfers/Suspension/Reinstatements:

There were no transfer requests submitted during the month. Four (4) agents were suspended pursuant to notice of termination or resignation. There was no further discussion and the Board proceeded.

Forfeitures- Open:

The Board reviewed the Open Forfeiture Report. The chair invited comment or discussion. Mr. Reed called the Board's attention to a spreadsheet indicating judgments paid from Z-Zoom, Inc.'s security and noted other judgments yet to be paid. The Chair opened the floor for motions. Mr. Parker moved to suspend those licensees that do not timely pay forfeitures between October 12, 2007 and the November 9, 2007 regular meeting. Second by Ms. Carruth, The Chair called for discussion. There was none and the matter was put to a voice vote. The motion carried.

Past Due Forfeitures:

The Past Due Forfeitures Report was presented for review. The Chair invited comment or discussion. Mr. Reed called the Board's attention to judgments against Manuel Bail Bonds from St. Francis, Crittenden and Phillips counties totaling several hundred thousand dollars. He noted communications from attorneys for Crittenden and Phillips counties asking the Board to withhold administrative action pending negotiations with Manuel. He also noted recent communications advising negotiations had failed and asking the Board to proceed. However, upon sending ten-day notices, the Board received communications from those attorneys extending the due dates and requesting no administrative action be taken.

Mr. Parker asked Mr. Reed with whom was Manuel negotiating – the Prosecuting Attorney or County Attorney? Mr. Reed advised Manuel was negotiating with attorneys representing the County. Mr. Parker related the procedures in his jurisdiction and in his experience as a private attorney concerning bail bonds. Mr. Reed related communications with the attorney representing Phillips County Quorum court regarding negotiations with

1 Manuel. Mr. Reed noted there was some question as to who spoke for the Quorum Court
2 and who had authority to compromise or settle judgments on behalf of the County. Ms.
3 Carruth asked how long the Board would withhold administrative action. The Board
4 agreed that the wishes of the judgment holders determined the Board's course of action
5 regarding administrative action on forfeiture judgments.

6 7 **NEW BUSINESS**

8 9 **September Vouchers Paid:**

10 The Board reviewed vouchers paid in September 2007. Chairman Sturgeon invited
11 questions or discussion. He noted nothing appeared out of the ordinary. There was no
12 further comment, question, or discussion and the Board proceeded.

13 14 **License Approvals:**

15 Seven (7) bondsmen applications were submitted for approval and Three (3) were
16 submitted for tentative approval pending receipt of necessary documentation regarding
17 criminal background searches. Mr. Reed noted everything appeared in order and there
18 was nothing unusual or noteworthy to bring to the Board's attention.

19
20 Ms. Carruth moved to approve the applications, including tentative applications. Mr.
21 Parker seconded. The Chair called for discussion or comment. There being no further
22 discussion or comment, the motion was put to a vote. The motion carried.

23 24 **In Re: Adoption of Identification Card as License:**

25 The Board considered the Executive Director's request to approve use of the photo
26 identification card provided by the Board as the bondsman license. After discussion, the
27 floor was opened for motions. Mr. Baldwin moved to approve use of the photo
28 identification card as the form of the bondsman license. Second by Ms. Carruth. Motion
29 carried.

30 31 **Request of Exec. Dir. For Approval to Serve as Vice-Chair of Regulatory Agency** 32 **Administrator's Committee of CLEAR:**

33 Mr. Reed recounted his experience at the CLEAR Conference in Atlanta in July and gave
34 his opinion regarding the value to the Board of his participation as the Vice-Chair of the
35 referenced committee. He noted the benefits of CLEAR membership offered to Board
36 members, such as interactive computer training, as well as such training offered at
37 CLEAR annual meetings. He outlined the requirements of his participation. After
38 discussion, the floor was opened for motions. Mr. Parker moved to approve the Executive
39 Director's request to serve on the referenced CLEAR committee and to attend CLEAR
40 meetings as required. Second by Mr. Baldwin. Motion carried.

41 42 **Executive Session:**

43 The Board retired to executive session to complete a job performance evaluation of the
44 Executive Director. Upon conclusion of the session, the Board returned to public session
45 and announced the Executive Director had received an above average performance
46 evaluation. With no further discussion, the Board proceeded.

1 **Public Comments:**

2 The Chairman opened the floor for public comments. (1) Ronnie Minick, an approved
3 continuing education provider, introduced himself to new board members, Mr. Parker and
4 Mr. Baldwin and noted that in December 2006 he had requested the Board consider
5 alternative means of delivery of pre-license and continuing education. He noted he had
6 extensive experience in video-conferencing by way of point-to-point/camera-to-camera
7 systems. He explained he now had the ability to provide “live” pre-license instruction
8 over an internet connection to anyone who has a computer at home. He explained the
9 individual would access a camera set up at Minick’s location and would participate via
10 interactive sessions. He noted the convenience of the requested method to the participant
11 and that the course could be offered every other week instead of once monthly as
12 currently offered.

13
14 Mr. Oudin related his recent positive experiences with other, un-related interactive
15 computer training. He noted there was no way one could log-on and then ignore the
16 program due to the interactive nature of the instruction. He stated his support of anything
17 that improves education in the industry.

18
19 Mr. Oudin noted his long-held belief that the costs of education programs was too much.
20 Mr. Baldwin asked if there would be additional costs associated with the remote,
21 interactive program. Mr. Minick answered “Yes,” it would give them the ability to
22 control overhead. He noted his program shared revenue with the Association and was the
23 Association’s chief revenue source. It was noted that, if the individual chose to have
24 someone else take the training, the applicant would be the one disadvantaged. The Chair
25 opened the floor for motions. Mr. Parker moved to approve live, interactive video pre-
26 license instruction by Mr. Minnick; second by Mr. Oudin. The Chair called for discussion
27 or comment. There were no further comments and the Board matter was put to a voice
28 vote. Motion carried.

29
30 (2) Mr. Reed reminded the Board of his attendance at the CLEAR 2007 Annual
31 Conference and Executive Leadership Training for Regulators during the prior week and
32 summarized some of the benefits gained by attending. He noted he had been asked to
33 serve as Vice-Chair of the Regulatory Agency Committee and distributed a letter from
34 the Executive Director of CLEAR advising of the duties and commitments involved.

35
36 Mr. Oudin asked about the economic impact of serving in terms of required meetings and
37 traveling. Mr. Reed noted he would be expected to attend a mid-year meeting in January
38 in Charleston, South Carolina to plan the annual conference, and the annual conference in
39 September, 2008 in Anchorage Alaska. He said there would also be two telephone
40 conference calls during the year.

41
42 Mr. Parker asked whether the added expenses of travel, etc. would fit within the budget.
43 Mr. Reed confirmed there were adequate funds. He advised that the board investigator
44 was scheduled for training in October in Phoenix. Mr. Parker moved to place the matter
45 on the agenda for approval at the October meeting, second by Mr. Oudin. The matter was
46 put to a voice vote. Motion carried.

1
2 Mr. Reed then called to the Board's attention that today's meeting was officially the last
3 for Mr. Oudin. He then presented a plaque commemorating Mr. Oudin's service.
4

5 There were no further public comments or discussion and the board continued to
6 scheduled hearings. Upon conclusion of the hearings, the meeting was adjourned.
7

8 **Proposed Consent Agreement: APBBLB #06-022**

9 **In the Matter of Advantage Bail Bonds, Inc./Richard Boyd**

10 A proposed consent agreement levying a three (3) day suspension against Richard Boyd
11 and a \$300 administrative penalty against Advantage Bail Bonds, Inc. was submitted for
12 Board approval. The Respondent's were not present. Mr. Reed advised that Board that
13 Richard Boyd, a licensed agent of Advantage Bail Bonds, Inc., had signed a bail bond
14 while in the parking lot of the Benton County Detention Center and given it to an un-
15 licensed trainee, Raymond Fields, who tendered the bond to effect the release of William
16 Stewart. Although Mr. Fields was tentatively approved at the time, he was unlicensed
17 when he presented himself as a bondsman and tendered the bond.
18

19 After further discussion, the Chair opened the floor for motions. Mr. Baldwin moved to
20 approve the proposed consent agreement; second by Ms. Carruth. The motion carried.
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22 **In the Matter of Z-Zoom, Inc./Gary Johnson/Travis Dean Johnson**

23 **APBBLB #07-014**

24 Upon this matter being called, Mr. Reed advised that, because there was some concern
25 regarding whether Gary Johnson had received adequate notice of the hearing, he
26 requested the Board consider going forward with regard to Z-Zoom, Inc. and Travis Dean
27 Johnson but continue the matter relative to Gary Johnson. After discussion, the floor was
28 opened for motions. Mr. Parker moved to continue the hearing as to Gary Johnson until
29 such time as proper service of notice could be achieved and to proceed with the hearing
30 regarding Z-Zoom, Inc. and Travis Dean Johnson. Second by Mr. Baldwin. The motion
31 carried.
32

33 Submitted for approval: This 9th day of November, 2007, _____
34 Chairman Tommy Sturgeon